

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for enhancing metadata associated with media on a  
2 communications network, said method comprising the steps of:
  - 3        parsing said metadata associated with said media into at least one field  
4        of metadata;
  - 5        comparing each of said at least one field of metadata with at least one  
6        field of valid metadata, each field of metadata compared with each field of  
7        valid metadata being a compared field; and
  - 8        modifying said metadata if said compared field does not match at least  
9        one field of valid metadata.
- 1 2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of modifying  
2 said metadata comprise at least one of replacing said compared field with a  
3 corresponding field of said valid metadata, correcting said compared field in  
4 accordance with a corresponding field of said valid metadata, and adding at  
5 least one field of metadata to said metadata.
- 1 3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said valid metadata is  
2 obtained from at least one of a multimedia file, a streaming media file, a  
3 uniform resource indicator (URI), a database, a media file header, a media file  
4 footer, a metatag, and a transport stream
- 1 4. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - 2        receiving said metadata and corresponding media files, wherein said  
3        corresponding media files are formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats;

4 providing media files formatted in the same format and associated  
5 metadata to a corresponding format specific metadata extractor;

6 determining if a media file is valid; and

7 if said media file is not valid, performing said step of comparing at a  
8 predetermined time in the future.

1 5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at  
2 least one of an extension selected from the group consisting of .ram, .rm, .rpm,  
3 .mov, .qif, .wma, .cmr, .avi, .swf, .swl, .mpg, .mpa, .mp1, .mp2, .mp3, m3a, and  
4 .m3u.

1 6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said metadata comprise  
2 elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual property  
3 rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

4 7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at  
5 least one of multimedia and streaming media.

1 8. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said communications  
2 network is a computer network.

1 9. A computer system for enhancing metadata associated with media on a  
2 computer network, said computer system comprising at least one computer, all  
3 computers in said system being communicatively coupled to each other,  
4 wherein each of said at least one computer includes at least one program stored  
5 therein for allowing communication between each and every of said at least one  
6 computer, each of said at least one program operating in conjunction with one  
7 another to cause said at least one computer to perform the steps of:

8           parsing said metadata associated with said media into at least one field  
9    of metadata;

10           comparing each of said at least one field of metadata with at least one  
11    field of valid metadata, each field of metadata compared with each field of  
12    valid metadata being a compared field; and

13           modifying said metadata if said compared field does not match at least  
14    one field valid metadata.

1    10.   A program readable medium having embodied thereon a program for  
2    causing a processor to enhance metadata associated with media on a  
3    communications network, said program readable medium comprising:

4           means for causing said processor to parse said metadata associated with  
5    said media into at least one field of metadata;

6           means for causing said processor to compare each of said at least one  
7    field of metadata with at least one field of valid metadata, each field of  
8    metadata compared with each field of valid metadata being a compared field;

9           means for causing said processor to modify said metadata if said  
10    compared field does not match at least one field of valid metadata.

1    11.   A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

2           a parse metadata code segment for parsing metadata associated with  
3    media on a communications network into at least one field of metadata;

4           a compare field code segment for comparing each of said at least one  
5    field of metadata with at least one field of valid metadata, each field of  
6    metadata compared with each field of valid metadata being a compared field;  
7    and

8           a modify metadata code segment for modifying said metadata if said  
9   compared field does not match at least one field of valid metadata.

1   12.    A data signal in accordance with claim 11, further comprising:

2           a receive code segment for receiving said metadata and corresponding  
3   media files, wherein said media files are formatted in at least one of a plurality  
4   of formats;

5           a distribute code segment for providing media files formatted in the  
6   same format and associated metadata to a corresponding format specific  
7   metadata extractor;

8           a validity code segment for determining if a media file is valid; and

9           if said media file is not valid, a reschedule code segment for performing  
10   said step of comparing at a predetermined time in the future.

1   13.    A data signal in accordance with claim 11, wherein said media  
2   comprises at least one of an extension selected from the group consisting of  
3   .ram, .rm, .rpm, .mov, .qif, .wma, .cmr, .avi, .swf, .swl, .mpg, .mpa, .mp1, .mp2,  
4   .mp3, m3a, and .m3u.

1   14.    A data signal in accordance with claim 11, wherein said modify  
2   metadata code segment performs at least one of replacing said compared field  
3   with a corresponding field of said valid metadata, correcting said compared  
4   field in accordance with a corresponding field of said valid metadata, and  
5   adding at least one field of metadata to said metadata.

1   15.    A data signal in accordance with claim 11, wherein said valid metadata  
2   is obtained from at least one of a multimedia file, a streaming media file, a

3 uniform resource indicator (URI), a database, a media file header, a media file  
4 footer, a metatag, and a transport stream.

1 16. A data signal in accordance with claim 11, wherein said metadata  
2 comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual  
3 property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

4 17. A data signal in accordance with claim 11, wherein said media is at least  
5 one of streaming media and multimedia files formatted in at least one of a  
6 plurality of formats.